

# Montana Transportation Commission

May 18, 2005 meeting

## SUMMARY MINUTES

Ninepipes Lodge ~ 41000 Hwy 93, Charlo MT

*Please note:* the complete recorded minutes are available for review on the commission's website at [http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans\\_comm/](http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans_comm/). You may request a compact disc (containing the audio files, agenda, and minutes) from the transportation secretary at (406) 444-7200 or [ldemont@mt.gov](mailto:ldemont@mt.gov). Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200. The TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592.

The following is an unofficial **summary** of commission action; the formal minutes of this meeting will be reviewed and approved at the next commission meeting.

### **Agenda item 1: Wetland projects**

Straehl presented four different wetland proposals to the commission:

*Woodson Creek wetland mitigation* project – purchase wetland credits (\$812,500)

*Hahn Ranch wetland mitigation* – feasibility study (\$75,000)

*Lazy E-L Ranch wetland mitigation* – feasibility study (\$85,000)

*Gainan Ranch wetland mitigation* – feasibility study (\$75,000)

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the projects as presented; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

### **Agenda item 2: Increased project scope and cost**

*2001 – Access Control – Kalispell - NE*

*30 km Northeast of Glendive – Northeast*

*2002 – Fencing – NE of Craig*

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the scope changes and additional funds for the three projects; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye

### **Agenda item 3: State-funded projects**

*Turn Lanes-East of Wolf Point*

*Lewis & Clark Interpretive Site – Sula*

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve \$375,000 for the US 2 Turn Lanes – East of Wolf Point project and \$20,000 for the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Site – Sula project; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. Commissioner Griffith said this is with the caveat that the expenditure be held until the agreement with Columbia Grain is in place.

#### **Agenda item 4: Construction projects on state and federal systems**

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the projects and delegate its authority to let, award, and administer the contracts for these projects to Richland County and the cities of Billings, Hamilton, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula, pending concurrence by the chief engineering on the design plans; Commissioner Howlett seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 5: Montana Rest Area Plan status review**

Commissioner Griffith moved to delay the Montana Rest Area Plan status review until the next meeting; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 6: Special speed zones**

*Secondary 441 – Fairmont Hot Springs*

*X-81012 – Crackerville Road*

*MT 24 – Fort Peck Dam*

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the special speed zones for Crackerville Road and Fort Peck Dam; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 7: Policy updates**

*Draft commission policy – emergency projects*

Staff will incorporate the commission's suggestions and bring a revised draft back to them at their next meeting.

*Management memo 02-01*

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept Director Lynch's proposed updates to management memo 02-01; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

*Policy "doing business as"*

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the policy as presented; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 8: Access control resolutions**

*STPS 282-1(6) – Intersection Improvements – Montana City (Jefferson County)*

*NH 15-4(112)191 – South Helena Interchange (Lewis & Clark County)*

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the access control resolutions; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

#### **Agenda item 9: Access control appeal**

This item was pulled from the agenda; the issue had been resolved.

### **Agenda item 10: Letting lists**

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the proposed letting lists for May, June, July, August; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

### **Agenda item 11: Certificates of completion**

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the certificates of completion for March 2005; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

### **Agenda item 12a: Project change order approval process**

Frazier brought forth an audit recommendation that project change orders be approved by MDT rather than the commission. The commission was not amenable to the idea that change orders would still be brought before them for informational purposes only.

Commissioner Kottel moved to table the item; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

=> Staff will modify the policy and e-mail the revised draft policy to the commissioners for review and suggestions prior to the next meeting.

### **Agenda item 12b: Project change orders**

Commissioner Kottel moved to accept staff recommendations to approve change orders for the month of March 2005; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

The commissioners said the new format of the report was acceptable.

### **Agenda item 13: Liquidated damages**

The commission took no action therefore the liquidated damages stand.

### **Agenda item 14: Commission discussion**

Chairman Kennedy asked for notification of any workshops or meetings that the commission could or should attend. He asked Lynch to bring a list of upcoming meetings to the commission so they have awareness of what's coming up.

=> This will be added as a standing item to the agenda.

For additional details, please refer to the commission's website at  
[www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans\\_comm/](http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans_comm/)